

# Bulletin

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## Sisterhood Luncheon Wednesday, March 31 Men's Club Ready for Inaugural Meeting

### RABBI STEINBERG WILL ADDRESS MEN APRIL 6

The first meeting of the new Men's Club, an important and long-awaited event in the life of the Synagogue, will take place on Tuesday evening, April 6th, 1948 in the Vestry. The festivities are starting promptly at 8:30 p. m. and every male member of the Synagogue and its affiliated groups is cordially invited to attend.

Victor J. Herwitz, temporary chairman of the Men's Club, has announced that Rabbi Steinberg will address this opening meeting, giving his views on the role the group can play in the Synagogue as well as community life. Brief words of greeting will be given by Dr. E. D. Friedman, President of the Synagogue, and Benjamin Sack, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

For pure entertainment, Henry Koch, of the temporary Program Committee, announced that one of the leading toastmasters of our day will be present,—none other than Harry Hershfield. A past-master of hilarious stories and anecdotes, Mr. Hershfield is heard twice-weekly as one of the experts on the popular program, "Can You Top This".

As was indicated in a previous article which appeared in the BULLETIN, a group of the men of the congregation, feeling the need for an organization of this type in the Synagogue, got together as a Steering Committee. They formed temporary sub-committees which have done the ground work in laying the founda-

(Continued on Page 4)

### Daily Worship Starts April 24th

All arrangements have been made for the inauguration of a daily worship period, to begin April 24th, and to be held every day except Friday, at 5:45 p. m. The service will be a combination of *Minhat* and *Mahriv*.

### RUTH DRAPER, MURIEL SMITH ARE FEATURED

The eleventh Annual Musicales and Donor Luncheon of the Sisterhood will be held on Wednesday, March 31st, on the roof of the Hotel Astor. Under the co-chairmanship of Mrs. Letty Osserman and Mrs. Vicki Wimpfheimer, this year's affair promises to exceed the excellent one held last year in the same room.

The entertainment committee, under the direction of Mrs. Frances Peiper, has secured the services of two outstanding artists of the stage. The guests present will be privileged to see the character sketches of Miss Ruth Draper and

hear the singing of Miss Muriel Smith. To those of the theater, Ruth Draper needs no introduction. First lady of the monodrama, star of both the Broadway and British stage, through her solo sketches, Miss Draper is a show by herself. She recently completed a run on Broadway at the Empire Theater with her excellent monologues. Miss Muriel Smith will be remembered for her magnificent singing in the leading role of "Carmen Jones" and more recently in "Cradle Will Rock". In addition Miss Smith, a soprano, and graduate of the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, has sung as soloist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and has appeared on all the major networks. This excellent combination of two fine artists should provide one of the highlights of the afternoon's activities.

(Continued on Page 4)

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

*Sabbath Eve* ..... Friday, March 26th, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Morris Kertzer will preach on  
"Liberalism and Judaism—Have They Parted Ways"

*Sabbath Eve* ..... Friday, April 2nd, 8:30 p.m.

Mr Herbert Mowat will speak on  
"U.N. and The Palestine Problem"

*Sabbath Morning* ..... Saturday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.

*Bachurim* Group at 10:00 a.m.; Junior Congregation Service at 10:00 a.m.

### MOWAT WILL ADDRESS CONGREGATION APRIL 6

Mr. Herbert Mowat, Assistant to the Chairman of the World Committee for Palestine, a non-Jewish organization, will occupy the pulpit on Friday evening, April 2nd. The topic of his lecture will be "U.N. and The Palestine Problem."

Mr. Mowat, who served with the Canadian Army in the last War, has been at Lake Success since last April as the executive in charge of liason work for his organization and the United Nations. The above committee, headed by Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, is a federation of thirty national non-Jewish organizations throughout the world interested in promoting a just solution of the Palestine problem. Mr. Mowat was directly responsible for the briefs presented by Christian groups to the United Nations which lead to the partition plan.



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Vol. 2

No. 12

## From the Desk of Rabbi Kertzer

When I taught a college course in Comparative Religions, my students sought in vain for a one-volume history of the Jewish religion. For a study of Christianity there is available a whole library of popular surveys, several intensive works such as the monumental Latourette series; and even in the limited field of American religious history a number of fine volumes have been published.

Not so the Jewish religion. On all three levels, Religious School, college and adult studies, there is nothing to recommend to a reader interested in covering the entire horizon of the Jewish faith from the Biblical times to the contemporary scene. Many non-Jewish friends have asked for such a book dealing with the growth and development of Judaism, the unfolding of its spiritual and moral ideals, the rise of mysticism and *Hasidism*, of neoorthodoxy, Conservative and Reform Judaism.

One could recommend several definitive books on each of these specific fields, but I feel certain that every Jewish family would want in its library a single comprehensive volume written for the layman.

We lament the fact that Judaism is regarded as a 'fossil' in the words of Toynbee, as though the Jewish creative spirit has ceased functioning with the destruction of the Temple. Yet we are not able to point to a single volume and say: "This is what has happened to the Jewish religion in the past 19 centuries."

Dr. Mordecai Kaplan's writings, and our own Rabbi Steinberg's three works might be cited in refutation of this charge. But I have felt the need, in meeting the teaching requirements of a Confirmation class, or an adult study group of a *complete* historical survey of the Jewish religion. And from all indications, our leading Jewish publishers do not seem to be exploring the field.

The chief deterrent has been the problem of the Biblical period. Most writers hesitate to be drawn into a fruitless controversy regarding the historicity of early Bible stories. They would be content to cover the rabbinic period in the first chapter. Yet they realize that a study of the Jewish faith which deleted the Bible would be tantamount to studying a tree with no thought devoted to the soil from which it grew.

I cherish the hope that someone will have the courage to write such a book. Every time I raise the question before a study group, they challenge me: "Why don't you write one yourself?"

I'm afraid that some day I'll do just that.

\* \* \*

Nothing is so frustrating as giving a speech on a radio program with the feeling that absolutely no one is listening. Recently I spoke on a small FM station in a radio debate, and we had the uneasy sensation that our only audience was the engineer in the control room. I have a notion that on occasion our BULLETIN staff must experience a similar feeling. They have no way of measuring their Hooper rating: is the BULLETIN read? How do members of the congregation react to the BULLETIN?

Two techniques might be tried, to find an answer:

a. The Chinese Editor's technique—of deliberately inserting typographical errors to invite a torrent of complaint, or b. the premium technique, of giving away free tickets or pews. Neither scheme is practical.

But I am sure that the BULLETIN Staff would appreciate word from their readers with suggestions and comments on the effectiveness of the BULLETIN as a medium of news and literary expression.

Rabbi Steinberg and I have been gratified with the correspondence we have received from members of the congregation as a result of remarks in this column, and we hope that the tradition will continue.

—MORRIS N. KERTZER

## School Highlights

The *Purim* Carnival of the Religious School took place on March 21st in the Vestry. Teachers in charge of the program were Mr. Sanford Hahn, Mr. Dan Hoffman, and Miss Florence Marlowe. The student committee consisted of Stephen Selig, Barbara Brodsky, Diane Gevirtz, and Elizabeth Kaplan. The *Purim* Assembly will be held March 28th. This will be a costume affair and a first prize will be awarded for the best Queen Esther.

Classes 6Y and 7Y went on a field trip to visit the lower East Side and to spend a morning at a *Yeshivah*. They were visibly impressed by the devotion of the young students to the study of the *Talmud*.

A group of parents of the Confirmants has recently been organized. Mrs. A. Gotterer is chairman and Mrs. M. Ostriker, treasurer. The parents met at a luncheon at the home of Mrs. Gotterer on March 24th to discuss plans for events in which the parents will participate; particularly, the supper dance to be held on May 22nd.

## A Poem

I'm tired, God, of nonsense, foolish things,  
When men's souls lie like tortured beings  
Covering all the earth.  
'Tis time I cast aside those playthings  
Which delude and lead to pleasure,  
peace of mind, the folly not to see  
A world that torn asunder by man's greed and hate and bigotry  
Beyond the reach of mind's conception,  
Threatens to destroy the land which gave us birth, yea mother earth itself.  
Some speak our thoughts and speak them well for millions of our countrymen,  
Yet words we know are meaningless,  
'Tis acts alone of kindness, pity, reason brewed  
And spread o'er land and sea,  
That justice to all mankind brings.

—ALBERT EPSTEIN



## JR. LEAGUE PLANNING FOLK DANCE EVENING

An evening of folk dancing is being planned by the Junior League, to take place in the Vestry of the Synagogue, on Sunday evening, March 28th at 8:30 p. m. The dancing will be led by Mrs. Ella G. Sonkin, director of the City Folk Dance Society. Here is a chance for all the young people to take part in an evening of virginia reels, square dances and other folk dances. Girls are urged to wear low-heeled shoes. Everyone is invited and for non-members of the Junior League there will be a small admission charge of 50c. Refreshment and social dancing will follow.

The Junior League which this past year coordinated its study group with the Adult Education Committee's new policy of small home study groups announces that its program for the season has come to an end. A series of nine discussions, under the able guidance of Rabbi Abraham Karp, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Council of the United Synagogue of America on "Basic Judaism" was climaxed with the appearance of the author, Rabbi Milton Steinberg, at a meeting on Tuesday evening, March 23rd.

Many members of the Junior League will be attending the 21st Annual National Convention of the Young Peoples League of the United Synagogue of America in Atlantic City the weekend April 2nd to 4th. Mr. Dudley L. Greenstein, who is also a National Vice-President of the YPL is co-chairman of the program committee of the Convention. Mr. Louis I. Heller will be the leader of the Sabbath service conducted at the Convention.

## Synagogue Observes Purim

On Wednesday evening, March 24th, the Congregation celebrated Purim in the traditional manner of merriment. The evening was started with Services and the reading of the *Megillah* by representatives of the organizations within the Synagogue. Those who were asked to read were, in the order of their appearance, Frederick Finn, Harold E. Warshaw, Sandor Mark, Milton Sivek, Miss Selma E. Jerskey, Milton Selig, Miss Hannah Salomon, Miss Judith Kaplan, Mrs. Isaac Brodsky, Robert Rifkind, Victor J. Herwitz and Hugh Levy. Im-

## For Your Information

Since the recent issue of the BULLETIN announcing Committee assignments, there have been certain additions and changes of which we wish to advise the Congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Saul Godwin have been assigned to the Committee on Adult Education. The vacancy on the School Board caused by the resignation of Mrs. Susan P. Ochs has been filled by Mrs. Maxwell R. Liberman.

A new show of drawings, etchings, water colors and sculpture by well-known Jewish artists is now opened at the Jewish Museum, 92nd Street and Fifth Avenue. The show includes among others, works of Marc Chagall, Herman Struck, Max Liebermann, and sculpture by Marc Katz. Everyone is urged to visit the Museum—make it a family affair. The treasures and beauty of the various *Torahs* still on display should not be missed by any member of the Congregation.

### Anniversaries

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Adolph De Lemos, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 3rd.

### Birthdays

Best wishes to Mrs. Emma Luebeck and to Mrs. Frieda Ochs who celebrate their 85th and 82nd birthdays respectively on March 26th; and to Mrs. Tillie Heller who celebrated her 83rd birthday on March 23rd.

### Deaths

The Synagogue extends its condolences to Mr. Irving Lipkowitz on the loss of his father, Mr. Emanuel Lipkowitz; to Messers Arthur and Edward Pollak on the loss of their brother-in-law, Mr. Irving Paneth; and to the families of Mr. Nathan Caro and Mr. Henry Weiller on their deaths.

mediately following the Services, Mrs. Dorothy Gellert assumed the role of hostess in serving *hamantaschen*, cider, and fruit punch to everyone who came to hear the excellent program planned by Mrs. Bernard Prensky. The entertainers included Miss Ruth Kobart, known as the "Sweet Singer in Israel" and a member of The Lemonade Opera Company; and Nat Spencer of the City Center Opera Company.

## PARENTS NOMINATE MRS. ABRAHAM BLAU

The open meeting of the Parents' Association, held at the Synagogue on Wednesday evening March 17th, featured a symposium on "How Can We Achieve a Good Parent-Child Relationship in the Jewish Home?". This was led by Edwin Schoffman, a member of the faculty of the Religious School. Mrs. Anna Blau, of the School Board and Victor Herwitz, temporary chairman of the Men's Club, represented the parents, while Francine Kornzweig and Paul Seligson, of the Seminar group, spoke for the student body. There was criticism of both the parents and the home. Both must continue to work together. Children must still start with the concrete example of the home and reinforce it with the teaching of the school.

A slate for next season's officers has already been drawn up by the Nominating Committee of which Dr. A. Kudin is Chairman.

Following are the nominees as recommended by the Committee: For President, Mrs. Abraham Blau; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. I. B. Brodsky; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mr. A. Kirshon; 3rd Vice-Pres., Mrs. S. Wimpfheimer; Rec. Secretary, Mrs. Theodore Kaplan; Cor. Secretary, Mrs. A. Kudin; Treasurer, Mrs. Milton Selig; U.P.A. Delegates, Mr. I. E. Gevirtz, Chairman, Mrs. A. Gotterer; Alternates, Mrs. Milton Helpen, Mrs. Meyer Kaplan.

## SAVE MAY 23rd!

To honor Rabbi Steinberg and Cantor Putterman on the fifteenth anniversary of their association with the Park Avenue Synagogue, a warm, family celebration is being planned for Sunday evening, May 23rd, at the Synagogue. All members of the Synagogue will be invited to the reception to be held in the Vestry, and to the exciting and stimulating program prepared for the Synagogue proper. Save the date, and come prepared to join with the congregation family in this heart-warming event!



## This Is Your Synagogue

by Susan P. Ochs

Do you suffer from inertia? Are you troubled by lack of proper enterprise and spirit? Are you distressed because there is not always wholehearted co-operation among members? May we suggest this remedy: Try a little talk with Victor Herwitz!

To those of you who know Victor Herwitz only as the rising young lawyer who recently has been taking such an important part in the State investigations of New York's Welfare Department, we urge that you find time, and soon, to make further acquaintance with this jovial but sincerely religious gentleman.

Although he is temporarily captaining the Park Avenue's Synagogue's latest ship to be launched — the Men's Club, Mr. H. is the kind of fellow who would prefer that we do not dwell on him in the columns of the BULLETIN. For a man who has so much to say, and says it so well (just in case you should forget, his chosen way is law), he is entirely too modest. But, whether he likes it or not, Victor Herwitz was, until recently, a flourishing example of that breed of temple member regarded as "capable but inactive." Along with about twenty-five of just such men, Victor was urged by Rabbi Steinberg to form again a much needed Men's Club for the Temple. "There are many among us," as Victor himself puts it, "who ought to get to know each other better. My wife, Harriet, gathers with her clan (the Sisterhood of course); and during my eleven years of membership here, I've been watching her say hello to wives of husbands at whom I must stare interestedly but blankly."

This was one of the reasons Victor Herwitz, in conjunction with Harold Osserman and other equally able and willing members, jumped at the chance to start organizing a Men's Club. From a small beginning, this group is already looking forward to an active future.

But we're doing just exactly what Mr. Herwitz hoped we would do: forgetting that the purpose of this bit of prose was to introduce you to him, not only as a sample member, but as a highly engrossing individual, too. Victor's boyhood connection with his religion, which was largely a not-too-scholarly approach to his Sunday School studies at Beth-Emeth

Synagogue in Brooklyn, was scarcely responsible for his present interest in Jewish ritual and precepts. Actually, it was while stationed in the Pacific area during this past war that he became better "acquainted" with Judaism.

Maybe, while in the army, Victor Herwitz learned enough about the true value of being a Jew to carry that feeling with him into his life today as a husband, father and lawyer. Maybe he wants to be not just a Jew but an enthusiastic one. Perhaps in accordance with his belief that "without faith, there will never be a peace" he sees the harbor of that faith in our synagogue, more especially if that synagogue achieves a warm, unified personality and becomes in every way an integrated whole.

Victor Herwitz is a vitally interesting, genuine soul. We'd like you to meet him after services sometime; or at that first big Men's Club gathering on April sixth. Oh, and while you're about it, say hello to a lot of other worthwhile people there too.

### Come to the Party

The Parents' Association wishes to remind the Congregation of its Annual Card Party to be held on Sunday evening, April 18th. Checks (admission is \$1 per person) should be mailed to Mrs. I. E. Gevirtz, 9 East 96th Street.

## Will You Attend?

### Junior League

Square Dancing, Vestry, Sunday, March 28th, 8:30 p.m.

### Sisterhood Luncheon

Luncheon, Hotel Astor, Wednesday, March 31st, 11:30 a.m.

### School Board

Meeting, Trustees' Room, Monday, April 5th, 8:30 p.m.

### Men's Club

Initial Meeting, Vestry, Tuesday, April 6th, 8:30 p.m.

### Young Marrieds "A"

Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Weiss, 100 West 55th Street, Wednesday, April 7th, 8:30 p.m.

### Law Home Study Group

Meeting of law group studying "Concepts of Jewish Criminal Law" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor J. Herwitz, 9 East 96th St., Wednesday, April 7th, 8:30 p.m.

## MEN'S CLUB

(Continued from Page 1)

tions for a worth-while Men's Club, a group which will enable the members of the congregation to become better acquainted with each other and also provide a means of learning more about communal affairs.

A draft of a proposed constitution has been drawn up by a committee under the chairmanship of Joseph Katz, copies of which will be available for distribution on April 6th for those who wish to study it. Discussion and adoption of any constitution or formal program will not take place at the short business portion of this opening meeting, but rather at a following one.

Herman J. Baskind, temporary chairman of the Membership Committee, reports that over 100 men have already returned their applications to be charter members of the Men's Club and he feels that by April 6th this number will be substantially greater. If you wish to be counted as a charter member also, send your application to Mr. Baskind, care of The Synagogue, at once.

## Sisterhood Luncheon

(Continued from Page 1)

The musicale will begin promptly at 11 o'clock with Cantor David J. Putterman opening the festivities. Following the musical program, Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer will offer the invocation. Immediately after the luncheon, Rabbi Milton Steinberg will address the audience.

Prompt attendance is urged so that the guests may fully appreciate the program and avoid disturbing the audience in its enjoyment of these fine artists.

Guests will have an opportunity to receive one of the 35 attractive gifts arranged by Mrs. Dorothy Gellert and her Committee. Sisterhood members are asked to send in their checks for the Treasure Chest Books which are their invitations to the luncheon. As this is the Sisterhood's *only* fund-raising function of the year, every woman in the Sisterhood is urged to attend.

In order to eliminate last minute quandries for the Luncheon Committee, please send in reservation, together with stubs, NOW, to Mrs. William Karmiol, 400 East 58th Street. To facilitate the seating arrangements at the tables, members are asked to let the committee know with whom they wish to be placed.